

Raunds Town Council Mayor's Report – September 2018

Since the Council meeting on 10 July I have attended another wide variety of engagements in Raunds and beyond. These engagements have given me further opportunities to recognise and support the many initiatives and achievements of Raunds schools, communities and residents, and to promote the town amongst other civic leaders across Northamptonshire and neighbouring counties. What follows is a summary of my activities, the reasons for attendance and the achievements celebrated.

10 July	St Peter's C. E. School Parliament Day	The school has a "Parliament", made up of one pupil from each class. On this day, the Parliament members ran the school and teachers took the roles of pupils. I went along to see how they were doing. The Parliamentarians were in charge of classes, and they all agreed that being a teacher was not easy!
11 July	Schools Summer Exhibition in Saxon Hall	Windmill, St Peter's and Raunds Park schools put on an art exhibition to showcase the talents of their pupils. There was a wide variety of principally pictures on display. I attended to show support and give my encouragement for them to make this an annual event.
12 July	Windmill School end of year theatre production "Treachery at Traitors' Quay".	I attended the first of two productions held at Manor School. Many pupils took part in this musical about a group of children evacuated from London to Devon in 1939/40. The standard of acting was high, and the children had shown much interest in the historical background to the drama. I made a short speech of congratulations at the end.
13 July	St Peter's C. E. School Summer Fayre	I had no official duties, but circulated amongst pupils, staff and parents, and had a go at some of the stalls – I failed to win any sweets! Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves and the atmosphere was relaxed, if a little hot.
15 July	Mayor of Thrapston's Civic Service *	I attended the service in St James' Church Thrapston. There were refreshments afterwards in The Plaza community centre. St James' is very pretty, and The Plaza is an excellent venue for a function. This was a good opportunity to network with civic leaders from the locality.
17 July	Manor School liaison meeting	I, along with Cllrs Howell and Wilkes and the Clerk met Sarah Mitchell, Assistant Principal at Manor. The purpose was to explore ways that the School and the Town Council can support each other's activities. There is much that both sides can do, so watch this space.
18 July	St Peter's C. E. School Celebration and Year 6 Leavers' Assemblies	I presented some of the prizes at the Celebration Assembly. The Leavers' Assembly was organised by the Year 6 pupils and was a celebration of their time at the school.
19 July	Windmill School Year 6 Leavers' Assembly	I attended the Leavers' Assembly. As at St Peter's School, it was organised by Year 6 pupils along similar lines. The pupils came across as more mature than their years.
21 July	Raunds Carnival and Town Show *	The Mayoress and I led the parade through the town in an open-topped car. The turnout on the streets was impressive, and it was good to meet so many people, albeit from a distance and in passing. Once at Amos

		Lawrence, I presented the prizes for best float, best walking group, etc.
22 July	An Exhibition of Motorsport Art in support of the ENC Chairman's charities *	I attended this exhibition, organised by Cllr Greenwood-Smith, to show support for Wendy Brackenbury, Chairman of ENC.
9 August	Northampton Borough Council meeting	I, along with the Clerk, met a number of councillors and officers from Northampton Borough Council to answer their questions about operating as a Town Council (as opposed to being a Borough/District Council). They approached Raunds because of our Gold Award.
11 August	Lobbied Matt Golby	The Council had written to NCC in support of the Library Management Group's bid to run Raunds Library using volunteers after NCC said they would mothball the building. I gave a copy of the letter to Matt Golby, Leader of NCC, and asked that he use his influence to ensure that it was acted upon. He said that he would do so, and appears to have been as good as his word, as NCC changed their approach to library closures a few days later. Anne Lovely of what was then First For Wellbeing said that the letter from Raunds Town Council had been very helpful in this respect.
11 August	Opening of Ada Salter Spinney and memorial garden *	I cut the ribbon to officially open the new garden at the renamed Ada Salter Spinney in the presence of the Mayor of Southwark, other representatives from Bermondsey, local and Bermondsey Quakers and Raunds Town Councillors. Guests were treated to a talk on Ada's life in Raunds at Thorpe House, where Ada was born in 1866, with generous hospitality from Amanda Mauro. The guests from London were fulsome in their praise for the fantastic organisation that the Council had put into the day, and said they looked forward to reciprocating sometime in the future.
15 August	Film Afternoon	I opened the film afternoon, during which La La Land was shown. Around 100 people turned up, demonstrating the continued success of this ELR venture. Again, thanks to the WI for serving and clearing away the refreshments.
18-19 August	Visit to the twin town of Hachenburg in Germany *	Magda and I were part of the group that visited our twin town in Germany. The trip included a boat trip down the Rhine and a BBQ outside Hachenburg, at which the Mayor of Hachenburg attended. The group included Jason Smithers, Mayor of Higham Ferrers, with whom Hachenburg is also twinned. Jason and I were invited as mayors of the two towns. For the avoidance of doubt, the costs of this trip were met by the individuals who went on it.
20 August	Manor Academy Zanzibar children celebration	<i>The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Lee Wilkes</i> , attended a celebration of the recent trip to Zanzibar undertaken by pupils of Manor School. RTC was thanked for all the support that they had given to the group, and the Deputy Mayor was presented with a hand-painted picture from Zanzibar.
24 August	Mayor of Northampton's Annual Ball	<i>The Deputy Mayor</i> and Cllr Helen Howell represented Raunds at the ball where over £12,000 was raised for the Mayor of Northampton's chosen charity, the Northampton Hope Charity, which helps homeless people in that town.

25 August	St Neots River Festival	<i>The Deputy Mayor</i> attended the festival on behalf of RTC. The Inland Waterways Association described work that they carry out to improve river links between counties. Opportunities may arise to hold a future festival nearer to Raunds on the River Nene.
1 September	Rushden Proms in the Park *	I attended a last Night of the Proms event which featured the Rushden Brass Band. They were excellent, playing a variety of music, before a singalong of Land of Hope and Glory, Jerusalem, the National Anthem, etc. Around 100 members of the public paid £5 and brought along chairs and a picnic to take part in the concert. This was a great occasion and well worth the comparatively small outlay. I recommend this to residents in Raunds for next year.
3 September	RAF Wyton's First Mission Commemoration and Reaffirmation Parade in Huntingdon.	I attended a service in Huntingdon's Market Square to commemorate the centenary of the formation of the RAF and the fact that the first British aerial combat mission of the Second World War was a reconnaissance flight over Wilhelmshaven from RAF Wyton. Included was a fly past from a Boeing E-3 Sentry (the AWACS). Gifts were exchanged between Huntingdon Town Council and the RAF. I never knew before that the theme from "The Dambusters" had been turned into a hymn, which we all sang, as everyone knew the tune!
5 September	Coffee afternoon – "Poppy making"	I opened the poppy making event in Saxon Hall. Around 40 people attended, and they set about making foam poppies with relish. One lady brought several dozen poppies that she had knitted, including three wreaths, which looked fantastic.
5 September	Ashfield House 10 anniversary celebration *	I, along with the Mayoress and Cllrs D Hughes and B Tirebuck, attended a celebration of ten years since the present Ashfield House building opened. Area management members from Shaw Healthcare presented awards to some residents, and I presented a plaque to Julie Burn, the care home manager. There was cake and Prosecco and everyone seemed to be having a good time. We were then shown round the home, and the facilities and the atmosphere were impressive.

* Occasion where I was accompanied by the Mayoress, Mrs Magdalena Levell.